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RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, EEB/ESC/IEC (MONOSSON), S/CIEA
(GOLDWYN, SULLIVAN), S/SECC (STERN, PERSHING, ROCHBERG)
DEPT PASS TO DOE FOR JONATHAN ELKIND, JAMES HART

E.O. 12958 DECL: 02/09/2020
TAGS KGHG, SENV, EPET, ENRG, PREL, SA
SUBJECT: TWO FACES OF SAUDI ARABIA'S CLIMATE NEGOTIATING
POSITION
REF: A. 09DHARHRAN 201 B. 09RIYADH 1302 C. 09RIYADH 1397 D. 09RIYADH 1492 E. 09RIYADH 1557 F. 09RIYADH 1642 G. RIYADH 103 H. SECSTATE 308

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Smith for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

11. (S) Saudi Arabia is officially still studying the issue of whether to associate with the Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change. Behind the sc
Saudi Arabia not yet Decided on Copenhagen Accord

12. (C) Saudi Arabia's lead climate change negotiator Dr. Mohammad Al-Sabban told Econoffs February 3 the United States should adopt a more inc
Addressing Saudi Economic Concerns Key to Progress

13. (C) Asked how to move forward on a global climate change commitment, Al-Sabban agreed negotiations need a "speedy outcome," and said countr
14. (C) Asked about tangible actions to reach national climate change goals, Al-Sabban said Saudi Arabia's nationally appropriate actions would
the adverse impact that emissions-reducing policies may have on the Kingdom. Al-Sabban said the SAG had closely studied climate change policies

15. (C) Al-Sabban said the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies was key to addressing Saudi Arabia's domestic ene
Shadow Negotiator Suggests Partnership

16. (C) Senior Advisor to the President of Meteorology and Environment (PME) Fawaz Al-Alamy told Econoffs January 27 the U.S. and Saudi Arabia

17. (C) Al-Alamy recommended several steps for U.S. engagement with Saudi Arabia on climate change, including active outreach to all the key pl

18. (C) Al-Alamy said that Minister of Petroleum Al-Naimi strongly supports solar energy as he believes it will displace oil currently used in
Is Al-Naimi the Problem?

19. (S) Minister Al-Naimi has consistently been rational and practical in talking with western delegations about climate change, noting that Sa
change just before Copenhagen, and his often obstructionist behavior, as reported by a number of Embassies in Riyadh, during working-level nego

10. (S) A recent conversation with UK Embassy officers suggests that indeed Al-Naimi may have some questions about climate change. They report

11. (S) A senior Ministry of Petroleum official explained that, leaving Copenhagen, the Saudi delegation was convinced that the Copenhagen acc
Comment

12. (C) All indications are that Saudi officials are intensely discussing what position the country should take. We believe that the message i
SMITH